

## Royal Silver Jubilee Celebrations – 1935

In 2012 the Queen celebrated her Diamond Jubilee. This was the third jubilee celebrated by the present monarch (the Silver Jubilee was in 1977, and the Golden Jubilee in 2002).

The previous monarch to celebrate a jubilee was George V, who came to the throne in 1910 and had a Silver Jubilee in 1935.

This article describes the 1935 jubilee celebrations in Farnhill and Kildwick.

### Restoration of the Pinnacle

The monument above the village, known as the Pinnacle, was built as part of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee celebrations in 1887. Apparently, by 1935, it needed some TLC and the restoration was carried out as part of the George V Silver Jubilee commemorations.

Details of the original construction were carved into one of the rocks immediately below the Pinnacle site, and the 1935 activities were similarly recorded, on an adjacent stone.

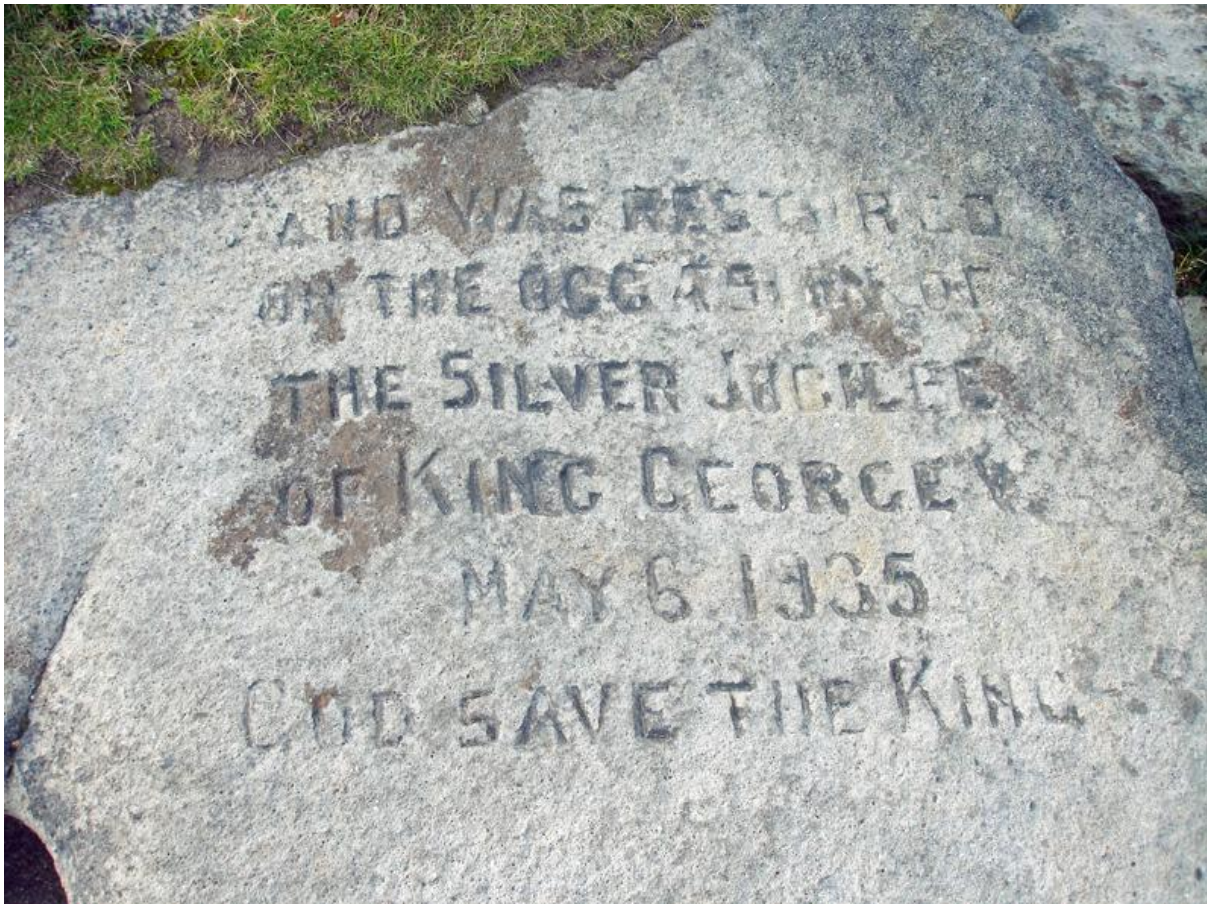


Figure 1: The rock-carved record of the 1935 restoration

## Commemorations at Kildwick School

Kildwick school was given a two-day holiday (6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of May) to celebrate the Silver Jubilee.

On Friday May 3<sup>rd</sup> the pupils gathered for the afternoon session were each given a special jubilee Bank Book credited with a one shilling deposit. The gift was made by the West Riding County Council and distributed by Rev. Walkden of St. Andrew's. It was made on the proviso that the account should continue to have a balance of at least one shilling until the pupil reached the age of 16.

When the school reassembled on the following Wednesday (May 8<sup>th</sup>), there were further gifts from the County Council. Children of 11 and over were each given a fountain pen; those under 11 were given propelling pencils. The pens and pencils were engraved "King's Silver Jubilee May 1935 with the best wishes of West Riding County Council".

## Village celebrations – May 6<sup>th</sup> 1935

May 6<sup>th</sup> 1935 was a public holiday and various activities took place in Farnhill and Kildwick.

- A Sports Day was held in the field just over Barrett's Bridge, next to the tennis courts that were the home of the Farnhill Tennis Club.
- The school-children were each presented with a commemorative mug or beaker.



**Figure 2: The mug and beaker presented to the children of Kildwick School.**

## Craven Herald reports

The Craven Herald ran special reports in the issues before and after the big day.

On May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1935 they included a pull-out supplement, detailing the planned local events (and containing a considerable number of advertisements for the latest radio sets: "Listen to all the Excitement on a new Bush Radio !". (The BBC would not start TV broadcasts from Alexandra Palace until the following year.)



**Figure 3: Cover of the Craven Herald commemorative supplement, May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1935**

In the May 10<sup>th</sup> issue, they had a full report of the celebrations in Farnhill and Kildwick; reproduced, in full, below. The results of the children's sports events include the names of some families still well known in the local area.

***DAY THAT WILL LIVE IN MEMORY***

***Kildwick and Farnhill's Full Programme***

***A PERMANENT MEMORIAL***

*Monday's celebrations will long remain in the memory of the people of Kildwick and Farnhill. Both villages, who joined together in the celebrations, were en fete and never within living memory have they been so lavishly decorated. Enthusiasm prevailed everywhere and all were intent on making the day a success.*

*Excellent arrangements had been made, the day commencing with a united thanksgiving service at Kildwick Parish Church, conducted by the Vicar of Kildwick (Rev. A. T. Walkden). The lessons were read by the Rev. W. Johnson (Farnhill Methodist Church), who also gave an address, in which he said the King had won the hearts of his people by his sterling character and his understanding sympathy, and because of his personal character and service his throne was secure and stood higher than ever before in the history of the nation. His Majesty's attitude towards the needs of his people had brought him a knowledge of their character. He showed his kingliness in an exceptional way, and they honoured him, not only as a King but also as a true English gentleman.*

#### **MEMORABLE SERVICE**

*The wholehearted singing of the National Anthem closed a memorable service. The singing was led by the combined choirs of the two churches, and Mr. T. Preston was at the organ.*

*Following the service, the choir assembled at the War Memorial, where a wreath of Flanders poppies, bearing the inscription 'Lest we forget', was laid by Mr. George Bottomley in honour of the men of the district who gave their lives for King and country.*

*In the afternoon there was massed singing in the Kildwick School yard, following which the children's sports, witnessed by a large assembly, were held in Banks Field. After the sports a procession, headed by the Keighley Concertina Band, proceeded to the Farnhill Methodist School, where tea was served to the children attending Kildwick School and also to secondary school children. Alderman W. A. Brigg, Kildwick Hall, presented mugs and beakers to the scholars and all children under school age. Tea was served in the Institute to all residents over 60 years of age, and widows and widowers. After tea the following votes of thanks were proposed to Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Reddihough, Farnhill Hall, for providing the teas, by the Rev. W. Johnson; to County Alderman J. J. Brigg and Alderman W. A. Brigg, for providing the mugs and beakers, by the Rev. A. T. Walkden; to Mr. J. A. Smith, Myra Rigg, Farnhill, and Mr. T. E. Sugden, Thornton Hall, who had paid for the fireworks, and for the restoration of the Cairn by Mr. H. Croft; to the secretary, Mr. G. Bottomley, by Mr. E. Auty; to the committee, treasurer, all subscribers, Mr. R. Hagar for the use of his field, the Institute Committee, the Methodist Church trustees, the Kildwick Church authorities for the use of rooms, to Mr. Richard Chambers for gifts of sweets for the children, by Mr. Bottomley. All these votes of thanks were heartily carried.*

#### **SPORTS WINNERS**

*In the evening, Mrs. Reddihough presented the children's sports prizes to the following:—*

*Boys and girls (4 and 5 years) – Oswald Smith, Dennis Cobb, Clifford Thornton. Girls (6 years) – Dorothy Whiteoak, Hilda Dixon, Margaret Rushton. Boys (6 years) – Dennis Wilcock, John Hargreaves, Derek Roberts. Girls (7 and 8) – Betty Pearson, Irene Rishworth, Joan Allsopp. Boys (7) – Kenneth Paver, Robert Bracken, Frank Barrett.*

*Sack Race, boys, over 10 – Dennis Foster, Harry Blakesley, Ronald Blakesley. Boys (8) – Dennis Rice, Clifford Senior, Phillip Whitaker. Girls (9 and 10) – Gladys Rishworth, Alice De Rome, Winnie Boothman. Boys (9) – Michael Hill, Lawrence Blakesley, Allen Hargreaves.*

*Egg and Spoon Race, girls under 10 – Renee Tillotson, Gladys Rishworth, Joan Allsopp. Girls (11) – Winnie Smith, Winnie Lofthouse. Boys (10) – Brian Airey, Hedley Bunnett, Dennis Lister. Girls (12) – Elsie Whitaker, Edna Pearson, Alma Taylor. Boys (11 and 12) – Kenneth Foster, Ronald Blakesley, Tom Whitaker. Girls (13 and 14) – Ruth Armistead, Margaret Flesher, Gladys Overend, May Atkinson. Boys (13 and 14) – Harry Blakesley, Joe Bancroft, Alec Walker.*

*Potato Race, boys (under 10) – Lawrence Blakesley, Dennis Roe, Michael Hill.*

*Egg and Spoon Race, girls (over 10) – Doris Ward, Winnie Lofthouse, Margaret Flesher, Margaret Boothman.*

*Consolation prizes were awarded to all unsuccessful competitors.*

*In the sports for adults a Gretna Green race and tug-of-war were popular features.*

*As darkness fell there was an excellent fireworks display, and afterwards almost all the spectators visited the Kildwick Hall gardens, which were illuminated by vari-coloured fairy lamps and presented a pleasing sight, as did the front of the floodlighted Hall.*

*At ten o'clock all eyes turned to the cairn on Farnhill Moor, where a rocket exploded with a loud report and beacon lights were lighted by Master Robert Walkden, Kildwick, and Master Tom Smith, Farnhill.*

*On a rock at the foot of the cairn have been carved the words: "This cairn was re-built by the men and boys of Kildwick and Farnhill in commemoration of Her Majesty's year of Jubilee, June 1887. God save the Queen." To this has been added: "And was restored on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of King George V., May 6<sup>th</sup> 1935. God save the King."*

*Numerous people visited the moor, from which could be seen several bonfires in neighbouring villages.*

It certainly sounds like a great day.

## **Acknowledgements**

The photograph of the Coronation mug was provided by the late Keith Bunnett. John Lofthouse, a former resident of Farnhill, allowed us to photograph the beaker presented to his late father.

## **What next – can you help ?**

Do you have any recollections or photographs of royal celebrations in Farnhill or Kildwick that you would be willing to share ? The Farnhill and Kildwick Local History Group would like to hear from anyone with their memories of the 1935 Silver Jubilee, the 1937 Coronation, the 1953 Coronation, or the 1977 Silver Jubilee. Please email [history@farnhill.co.uk](mailto:history@farnhill.co.uk).